



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion and a main body portion, wherein said main body portion comprises a center layer formed of a first material, a surface layer formed of a second material, and an intermediate layer formed of a mixture of said first material and said second material, wherein a weight ratio of the first material to the second material in the material for forming the intermediate layer is in the range of 1:9 to 9:1.

wherein said main body portion has a structure in which said center layer, said intermediate layer, and said surface layer are provided in this order from a center of said main body portion toward an exterior of said main body portion,

wherein said first material is a Ni-Ti based alloy, and

wherein said second material is a metallic material higher in rigidity than said Ni-Ti based alloy.

2. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said distal end portion is formed of said first material, and is continuous with said center layer of said main body portion.

3. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, comprising an intermediate portion located between said distal end portion and said main body portion, wherein

said intermediate portion comprises a center layer formed of said first material, and a surface layer formed of a mixture of said first material and said second material.

4. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate layer formed of the mixture of said first material and said second material is decreased in the content of said first material toward said surface layer and increased in the content of said second material toward said surface layer.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said second material is a stainless steel.

8. (Previously Presented) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion, a main body portion, and an intermediate portion located between said distal end portion and said main body portion,

said intermediate portion comprises a center layer formed of a first material, and a surface layer formed of a mixture of said first material and a second material, said surface layer covering said center layer,

and wherein said surface layer is decreased in the content of said first material toward an outer surface of said intermediate portion and increased in the content of said second material toward the outer surface of said intermediate portion

such that said surface layer has gradient physical properties in a radial direction.

9. (Previously Presented) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion and a main body portion, wherein said main body portion comprises a center layer formed of a first material, a surface layer formed of a second material, and an intermediate layer formed of a mixture of said first material and said second material,

wherein said main body portion has a structure in which said center layer, said intermediate layer, and said surface layer are provided in this order from a center of said main body portion toward an exterior of said main body portion,

wherein said intermediate layer is increased stepwise or gradually in the content of said first material toward said center layer, and

wherein said first material is a first metallic material, said second material is a second metallic material higher in rigidity than said first metallic material, and said second metallic material is stainless steel.

10. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 8, wherein said second material is a material higher in rigidity than said first material.

11. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 8, wherein the content of the second material in said surface layer is increased stepwise or increased gradually toward the outer surface of said intermediate portion.

12. (New) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of the first material to the second material in the material for forming the intermediate layer is in the range of 3:7 to 7:3.

13. (New) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said main body portion is formed by a sintered body, said sintered body having said center layer, said surface layer, and said intermediate layer, wherein said center layer is formed by sintering said first material, said surface layer is formed by sintering said second material, and said intermediate layer is formed by sintering said mixture of said first material and said second material.

14. (New) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said main body portion formed by a sintered body, said sintered body having said center layer, said surface layer, and said intermediate layer, wherein said center layer is formed by sintering a powder of said first material, said surface layer is formed by sintering a powder of said second material, and said intermediate layer is formed by sintering a powder of said mixture of said first material powder and said second material powder.